

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2804

FOR INR/RNA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PLO, TU
SUBJ: THE PLO AND TURKEY-CURRENT STATUS AND EXPECTATIONS

REF: STATE 91578

1. DESPITE AGREEMENT IN MAY 1976 TO ALLOW THE PLO TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE IN ANKARA, THE OFFICE HAS NOT YET OPENED. VARIOUS REASONS FOR THE DELAY HAVE BEEN ADVANCED BY TURKS--PLO WANTED TO SEND AN INAPPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE (IE SOMEONE PREVIOUSLY KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH TERRORIST ACTIVITIES), PLO PREOCCUPATION WITH THE LEBANON CRISIS, PLO REPRESENTATIVE WHO WAS TO OPEN ANKARA OFFICE FELL ILL, AND DISAGREEMENT ABOUT MANPOWER LEVELS AND STATUS OF OFFICE.

2. WE SUSPECT EACH OF THESE REASONS PLAYED A ROLE IN THE DELAY, AND WE ALSO SUSPECT THEY MAY SOON BE OVERCOME. THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE MORE ENERGETIC THAN ITS PREDECESSOR IN TRYING TO BROADEN TURKEY'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE THIRD WORLD. OPENING A PLO OFFICE WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THIS GOAL AND WITH OTHER ACTIONS OF THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT SUCH AS THE RECENT DECISION TO OPEN AN EMBASSY IN HAVANA.

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3. WHEN AN OFFICE IS OPENED WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE AN ACCREDITED DIPLOMATIC MISSION--ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE SOME MINOR RESTRICTION ON ITS ACCREDITATION. EARLIER WE WERE TOLD THE GOT WAS PLANNING TO GRANT PLO REPRESENTATIVES QUASI-DIPLOMATIC STATUS AND PLACE THE OFFICE ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST AFTER NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES. THIS MAY STILL BE THE CASE, BUT WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT WERE

TO ACCORD THE PLO FULL DIPLOMATIC ACCREDITATION AND
CONCOMITANT PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.

4. AS FOR THE SIZE OF THE STAFF WE HAVE RECEIVED CONFLICTING
INFORMATION. THE MOST RECENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE STAFF
WILL BE SMALL WITH ONLY ONE OR TWO INDIVIDUALS ACCORDED
DIPLOMATIC STATUS, BUT WE CANNOT BE AT ALL CERTAIN.

5. WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT THE GOT NOW RECOGNIZES OR INTENDS
TO RECOGNIZE OTHER PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS. THE GOT IS
DETERMINED TO HAVE A FORTHCOMING POLICY WITH RESPECT TO THE
PLO. IT IS HOWEVER ALSO FULLY AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL
DANGERS OF PLO PRESENCE IN TURKEY AND DOES NOT INTEND TO
ALLOW TURKEY TO BE USED AS A BASE OF OPERATIONS FOR
TERRORISM.

SPIERS

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